SHRI JAGESH DESAI; This is Kothari Panel Report. I do not know whether it was appointed by the FICCI or by the Government but these are the recommendations which are verydangerous. That is why I caution the Government that such recommendations arc not in the interest of the public sector. They are only to give relief to the private sector and to boost the private sector. That is why this is a very serious matter and the Government should look into it.

SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY (Pondicherry): Madam, I associate myself with what Shri Jagesh Desai has said.

SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA (Gujarat): Madam. I also associate myself with him on this.

THE METRO RAILWAYS (CONSTRUCTION OF WORKS) AMENDMENT BILL, 1987

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now. we take up the Metro Railways Amendment Bill, 1987. Shri Madhavrao Scindia.

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): Madam, I beg to move:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Metro Railways (Construction of Works) Act. 1978 be taken into consideration. "

As the House is aware, the Ministry of Railways are, presently, engaged in the construction of a prestigious Muss Rapid Transit System in Calcutta, commonly known as Calcutta Metro which would be the first of its kind in the country. The Metro Railways (Construction of Works) Act, 1978 provides for a speedy procedure for the acquisition of lands, buildings etc. by the Central Government, independent of the provi- sions of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894. for the purpose of the said acquisition a notification has to be issued under section 7 notifying the intention to acquire any pirticular plot of land or building etc, for the construction of Metro Railway. Section 9 provides for objections, if any, from the affected persons, to be heard by the Competent Authority constituted under the said Act. Thereafter, under section lOfl) a declaration has to be issued by the Central Government by notification in the official gazette that the particular plot of land or building etc. should be acquired. Sub-section (3) of section 10, however, provides that the notification under section 7 shall cease to have any effect, if the declaration under section 10(1) is not published within a period of one year from the date of publication of the notification under section 7.

Experience has shown that taking advantage of the above provisions, the affected parties often resort to dilatory tactics by going to the Court and obtaining stay orders with the object of making the publication of declaration under section 10(1) impossible within the said period of one year. Thus, the acquisition proceedings, in some cases, get unduly delayed. Hon'ble Members would appreciate that if the acquisition of even one plot of land, critically located, is stalled due to the dilatory tactics of the affected persons, commissioning of the full length of Calcutta Metro would not be possible.

In order to eliminate these difficulties and to ensure timely completion of the prestigious project of Calcutta Metro, the Metro Railways (Construction of Works) Amendment Bill, 1987 was introduced to insert a proviso to sub-section (3) of section 10 of the said Act to exclude the period during which an acquisition proceeding remains stayed by an order of Court for computing the period of one year under section 10(1). A similar provision exists in Land Acquisition Act.

With these words. I commend this Bill for consideration of the House.

श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव (बिहार) : मैं प्रस्ताव करता हूं कि भूमिगत रेल (संकर्म-सन्निर्माण) अधिनियम, 1978 का और संशोधन करने वाले विधेयक को राज्य सभा के निम्नलिखित सदस्यों की प्रवर समिति को सौंपा जाये, अर्थात् :—

1. श्री सत्य प्रकाश मालवीय
2. श्री कल्पनाथ राय

3. श्री एम. एस. गुरुपदस्वामी
4. श्री जसवंत सिंह
5. डा. (श्रीमती) सरोजिनी महिषी
6. श्री गुलाम रसूल मट्टू
7. श्री अश्विनी कुमार
8. श्री राम चन्द्र विकल
9. श्री निर्मल चटर्जी
10. श्री चतुरानन मिश्र
11. श्री जगदम्बी प्रसाद यादव

और उसे आगामी सत्र के प्रथम सप्ताह के अंतिम दिवस तक अपना प्रतिवेदन प्रस्तुत करने का अनुदेश दिया जाये।

The questions were proposed

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We will have the discussion after lunch. Now the House stands adjourned for lunch and will meet again at 2. 30 P. M.

Th« House then adjourned for lunch at thirty two minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at thirty-three minutes past two of the clock, The Vice-Chairman (Shri Jagesh Desai) in the Chair.

STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Regarding situation in Fiji

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): Mr. Vice-Chairman, Sir. the current crisis in Fiji began on 14th May, 1987 when a handful of soldiers led by Col. Rabuka overthrew the popularly elected coalition Government of the Labour and National Federation Parties led by Dr. Bavadra. Col. Rabuka moved again on September 25, 1987 at a time when the chances of national reconcilliation seemed bright and a formula for an interim bi-partisan government involving all political parties had been worked out. The second coup dealt a severe blow to the hopes of reconcilliation. The light of freedom has been dimmed in a beautiful pacific island, not for long, we hope and pray.

We have kept a close watch on the meloncholy developments in Fiji. Government's concern has been made known on a number of occasions. We have, in no uncertain terms disapproved of Rabuka's coups and condemned the racist overtones of his pronouncements.

Col. Rabuka's 'stated objective is to guarantee political supremacy for the indigenous Melanesian community. Some of the extremist groups believed to be supporting Col. Rabuka have made even more unreasonable demands. These objectives can only be at the cost of the interests of the people of Indian origin.

While we consider that the first loyalty of ethnic Indians overseas is to the country of which they are citizens, we are responsive to their problems and cannot remain unconcerned when their safety and welfare are at stake. There are about 3, 47, 445 people of Indian origin constituting 48. 6 per cent of the population of Fiji. Besides, there are about 250 Indian nationals. The people of Indian origin have made a significant contribution to the development of that country. Their contribution has been acknowledged by the ethnic Melanesian population. The constitution of 1970, which had been worked out after long and painstaking negotiations between the U. K. Government and all political parties in Fiji, was specially designed to safeguard the political interest, land ownership rights and other traditional rights of the Melanesians. The constitution was itself a document tilted in favour of the Melanesian community. It was accepted in good grace by the people of the Indian origin and, as acknowledged by former Prime Minister Ratu Mara, the leader of the Alliance party which ruled Fiji for 17 years, it served Fiji well for 17 years in promoting racial harmony, stability and progress. Its abrogation by the military regime has put the clock back; thus endangering the prospects of racial harmony, peace and prosperity in a country, where a multi-racial democracy was looked upon by the rest of the area as something of a model. This precious asset has been thrown away, and is in the process of being des-t roved.